

I
IRTHLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1969



F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Report of

H. A. LETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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H. A. LETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR G. W. SLAWSON

Members of the Public Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. K. WOOLSEY (Chairman)

COUNCILLOR R. B. BLAND (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

B. BRIGHTWELL

S. C. JOHNSON

C. E. GRIMMER, B.E.M., J.P.

L. A. PACK

Clerk of the Council:

O. C. PALMER

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointment of Medical Officer of Health for:

Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough and Rothwell Urban Districts
and Kettering Rural District

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer

Acting Medical Officer of Health for Wellingborough Urban and
Rural Districts

Secretary:

MISS M. W. LANGLEY (from 1.10.68)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

H. A. LETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector

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Telephone:
Kettering 2473

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
Kettering.
October, 1970.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Irthlingborough.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Irthlingborough for 1969.

The statistics relating to the town are satisfactory; details are principally enumerated on pages 5 to 11.

I desire particularly to draw the attention of the Members to the project directed towards the extermination of rats in the County which is fully described on pages 17-18.

A large number of cases of Influenza occurred in the town during December. This high incidence of Influenza was part of a nation-wide epidemic and a significant increase in the number of cases for the time of the year was observed in the week before Christmas. The peak was reached in the first week of the New Year and the incidence gradually subsided thereafter.

The usual symptoms of the illness were: fever, cough, headache, lethargy and aching of the back and legs and its duration was commonly three days.

The causative organism of the Influenza epidemic has been isolated and is described as Virus A2/HK/68.

My thanks for their co-operation during the year are due to Members and Clerk of the Council and to Mr. Lett, and to Miss Langley who has also been concerned in the preparation of this Report.

My thanks are also due to Dr. J. V. L. Farquhar of Kettering, who has abstracted the official statistics relating to cremations.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. N. LYNCH.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Comparative Statistics for the Five Year Period 1965 to 1969

		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Area of the Urban District (acres)	...	2,910	2,910	2,910	2,910	2,910
Population						
(Registrar General's Estimate)	...	5,180	5,230	5,290	5,310	5,240
Number of Live Births	...	76	103	120	107	82
Legitimate	...	71	96	113	100	74
Illegitimate	...	5	7	7	7	8
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	14.7	19.7	22.7	20.2	15.6
Number of Stillbirths	...	—	—	1	—	—
Legitimate	...	—	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	—	—	1	—	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	...	—	—	8.3	—	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population	...	—	—	0.2	—	—
Number of Deaths	...	49	63	70	63	53
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	9.5	12.1	13.2	11.9	10.1
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion	...	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Infant Deaths	...	—	1	1	2	—
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000						
Live Births	...	—	9.7	8.3	18.7	—
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000						
Live Births	...	—	—	—	9.4	—
Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths)	...	—	—	8.3	9.4	—
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	...	11	13	13	12	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	—	—	—	—	—
Natural increase in population, i.e., increase of Births over Deaths	...	27	40	50	44	29

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,910
Census Population 1951 :...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,015
1961 :...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,125
Population (Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate 1969)	...							5,240
Number of Inhabited Houses 1931 :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208
1961 :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,840
1969 :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,920
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£212,226
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£840

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows: Boot and shoe manufacture, tanning, packing and processing dried fruits, sugar and other foodstuffs, and the manufacture of tubular steel furniture.

The density of the population is 1.8 persons per acre and the housing factor 2.72 persons per house. The rate of unemployment in the area was 1.1% of the working population compared with the national percentage of 2.7.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1969

						Males	Females	Total
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	31	43	74
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	8
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	33	49	82
<hr/>								
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population								15.6
Adjusted Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.03)								16.1
<hr/>								
Stillbirths								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
<hr/>								
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)					...	—		
<hr/>								
Deaths								
Number registered all causes					...	...	...	...
					...	31	22	53
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population								10.1
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1.06)								10.7
Deaths from Maternal causes					...	—		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths								—
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)					...	...	...	...
					...	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births								—
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births								—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births								—
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)					...	...	...	...
					...	—	—	—
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births								—
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week combined)								—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1969.

Last No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Un- der	4 weeks and under	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
			All Ages	4 weeks	1 yr									
B6	Other Tuberculosis, including late effects ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(3)	Malignant neoplasm—stomach ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B19(4)	Malignant neoplasm—intestine ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(5)	Malignant neoplasm—larynx ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19(6)	Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(7)	Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19(9)	Malignant neoplasm—prostate ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B21	Diabetes mellitus ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B27	Hypertensive disease ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B28	Ischaemic heart disease ...	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B29	Other forms of heart disease ...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
B30	Cerebrovascular disease ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
		F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2
B46(5)	Other diseases of the circulatory system ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B31	Influenza ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B32	Pneumonia ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B33(1)	Bronchitis, emphysema ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(6)	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(7)	Other diseases of the digestive system ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46(8)	Other diseases of the genito-urinary system ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	TOTALS ...	M	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	12	10
		F	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	13

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

1. Population—The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population i.e., 30th June, 1969, is 5,240. The corresponding figure for 1968 was 5,310 giving a decrease in population of 70 in the 12 months.

2. Births—There were 82 live births in 1969, which is a decrease of 25 in the number registered for the previous year. This gives a Crude Birth Rate of 15.6 per 1,000 population. The corresponding figure for 1968 was 20.2.

It will be apparent that the Birth Rate and Death Rate in any place is influenced by the age and sex distribution of the population so that in order that more exact comparisons can be made between one area and another the actual Rate is multiplied by a number called the Comparability Factor, the result being known as the Adjusted, or Corrected Rate. These Comparability Factors are supplied by the Registrar General and are based on the age and sex distribution as shown by the Census. For Irthlingborough the Birth Rate Comparability Factor is 1.03 and the Corrected Birth Rate standardised on the basis of age and sex composition therefore gives an Adjusted Rate of 16.1. The Adjusted Birth Rate of 16.1 compares with 20.8 for 1968 and the Provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales of 16.3.

3. Deaths—There were 53 deaths from all causes in 1969. The figure for last year was 63 and the corresponding Crude Death rates are 10.1 and 11.9. In the same way as described in the case of 2. Births, above, the Death Rate is standardised by the use of a further Comparability Factor. Its value for Irthlingborough is 1.06 and the Adjusted Death Rate corrected by means of this calculation is found to be 10.7. The provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales as a whole is reckoned by the Registrar General to be 11.9.

4. Disposal of the Dead—of the 53 deaths during the year, 33 bodies were disposed of by cremation at Kettering Crematorium, giving a percentage of 62.26.

5. Infant Mortality—There were no Infant deaths in 1969. There were two in 1968 and the Infant Mortality Rate for 1968 was 18.7. The provisional rate for England and Wales as a whole is 18.0.

6. Stillbirths—For the second year running, there were no Stillbirths. The current rate for England and Wales is 13.0.

TABLE No. 1.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1969 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Death			
		No	Rate	Under 1 Year No	Rate	All Age No	Rate
1891	2,998						
1901	4,340						
1902	4,526	158	31.9	21	132.9	60	13.2
1903	4,728	152	32.1	23	151.3	63	13.3
1904	4,664	137	29.3	11	80.2	56	12.0
1905	4,664	150	32.1	11	93.3	55	11.7
1906	4,566	127	27.8	13	102.3	53	11.6
1907	4,600	111	24.1	13	117.1	57	12.3
1908	4,670	122	26.1	9	73.7	45	9.6
1909	4,750	98	20.6	8	81.6	44	9.2
1910	4,800	120	25.0	6	50.0	49	10.2
1911	4,630	124	26.7	17	137.0	56	12.0
1912	4,650	89	19.1	16	112.3	55	11.8
1913	4,675	108	23.1	5	16.2	39	8.3
1914	4,725	92	19.1	8	86.9	52	11.0
1915	4,790	95	20.1	15	157.8	60	12.5
1916	4,665	98	19.3	3	30.6	42	8.7
1917	4,415	56	11.2	6	107.4	50	11.2
1918	4,667	65	12.1	9	138.4	61	13.0
1919	5,011	73	13.9	6	82.1	50	9.9
1920	5,211	109	20.9	4	36.6	49	7.8
1921	4,914	90	18.3	6	66.6	47	9.5
1922	4,970	88	17.7	4	45.4	41	8.8
1923	4,956	69	13.9	6	86.9	50	10.0
1924	5,001	75	11.9	2	26.6	46	9.1
1925	4,946	77	15.5	5	64.9	57	11.5
1926	4,983	68	13.6	3	11.4	42	8.4
1927	4,934	79	16.0	3	37.8	57	11.5
1928	4,906	77	15.6	4	51.9	49	9.9
1929	4,934	71	14.9	4	54.0	55	11.1
1930	4,839	57	11.7	3	52.5	68	11.5
1931	4,715	61	13.5	4	62.8	50	10.6
1932	4,696	52	11.0	2	38.4	48	10.2
1933	4,679	63	13.4	1	15.8	61	13.0
1934	4,640	52	11.2	4	76.9	57	12.2
1935	4,547	55	12.0	3	56.3	46	10.1
1936	4,485	56	12.4	5	89.4	49	10.9
1937	4,484	67	14.9	2	29.8	51	12.0
1938	4,500	58	12.8	3	51.7	55	12.2
1939	† 4,542						
	* 4,663	70	15.4	3	42.8	49	10.5
1940	5,027	57	11.3	4	70.2	55	10.9
1941	5,237	69	13.2	6	86.9	61	11.6
1942	4,749	90	18.9	2	22.2	55	11.5
1943	4,535	86	11.8	2	23.2	60	13.2
1944	4,568	72	15.8	2	27.8	62	13.6
1945	4,427	74	16.7	4	54.4	59	13.3
1946	4,700	79	16.8	2	25.3	51	10.9
1947	4,812	85	17.6	2	23.5	59	12.3
1948	4,697	102	21.7	Nil	—	55	11.7
1949	4,967	83	16.7	4	48.2	75	15.1
1950	4,969	83	16.7	1	12.0	47	9.6
1951	5,039	81	16.4	2	24.7	62	12.3
1952	4,996	74	14.8	Nil	—	58	11.6
1953	5,090	79	15.5	1	12.6	47	9.2
1954	5,110	73	14.3	1	13.7	48	9.4
1955	5,100	76	14.9	Nil	—	53	10.4
1956	5,100	67	13.1	3	41.8	71	13.9
1957	5,080	60	11.8	2	33.3	55	10.8
1958	5,140	73	14.2	2	27.4	48	9.3
1959	5,160	65	12.6	1	15.4	57	11.0
1960	5,240	65	12.5	4	61.5	61	11.7
1961	5,170	66	12.8	1	15.2	61	11.8
1962	5,210	75	11.4	1	13.3	62	11.9
1963	5,200	91	17.5	1	10.9	51	10.3
1964	5,160	85	16.5			41	7.9
1965	5,180	76	11.7			49	9.5
1966	5,230	103	19.7	1	9.7	63	12.1
1967	5,290	120	22.7	1	8.0	70	13.2
1968	5,340	107	20.2	2	18.7	63	11.9
1969	5,240	82	15.6			53	10.1

* Population for calculation of Birth-rate.

† Population for calculation of Death-rate.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

In subsequent sections, full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Urban District, for which the Council is directly responsible.

The present section relates to those health services which concern more the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. The Health Committee of the Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for administration of some of these services under Part III of the National Health Service Act.

Liaison between the County Council services and District Council services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health is also a School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Laboratory Facilities—The Public Health Laboratory, Northampton is available for the examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases.

Ambulance Service—This is one of the services for which the County Council is responsible, and the area is adequately covered.

Domiciliary Services—These include District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors, who are all highly trained, qualified nurses on the staff of the County Medical Officer. The Home Help Service, also provided by the County Council, is proving more and more valuable in relieving people of domestic worries during periods of illness or confinement, and in helping old folk to remain in their own homes, so that they can retain their treasured independence.

Child Welfare Centres—The County Council provide these services as follows:

Community Centre, Addington Road Estate—2 p.m. first Thursday of the month.

Methodist Schoolroom—2 p.m. every Monday.

Immunisation and Vaccination—Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and vaccination against Small pox are free services, available either from the family doctor or at

the County Child Welfare Clinics. Certain age groups of children can also be given B.C.G. vaccination to protect against Tuberculosis. This is done through the School Health Service.

A vaccine for the protection of infants against Measles is now available and, in accordance with the policy of the County Health Department, a campaign for the control of and, it is hoped, ultimate eradication of this disease, was commenced in the Autumn of 1968.

Hospital Accommodation and Out-patient Facilities—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for these services which are as follows:

General hospitals are as follows :

Northampton.

Kettering.

Wellingborough Hospital : Gynæcological.

Highfield Hospital Wellingborough : Acute medical cases, skins and children.

Wellingborough Park Hospital : Chronic sick, the aged, and persons in need of care and attention.

Maternity : Maternity block at the Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Tuberculosis : The Rushden Hospital.

Orthopædic : The Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, Northampton.

Infectious diseases : The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

Out-patient facilities : Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals, Rushden Memorial Hospital, Rushden.

Psychiatric Out-patients : Rock Street, Wellingborough.

Orthopædic Out-patients : Rock Street, Wellingborough.

Venereal Disease—

Out-patient Department, Kettering General Hospital.

Tuesday of each week Female, 4.30-5.30 p.m.
Male, 5.30-6.30 p.m.

Northampton General Hospital:

Males Wednesday 2-3 p.m.
Friday 5-6.30 p.m.

Females Monday 5.15-6.30 p.m.
Friday 2.15-3.30 p.m.

National Assistance Act, 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, Section 47—This Act gives Local Authorities powers to enable them to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

On October 26th I applied for, and was granted, an Order by a Justice of the Peace for the urgent admission to hospital of an elderly patient residing at Allen Road, who had refused to enter hospital on the advice of his General Practitioner. The patient was admitted to the Park Hospital, Wellingborough. I regret to record that his death occurred on 24th November, 1969.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—Since the 1st April, 1965 the Urban District has received its water supply from the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board and the chief sources of supply for this Board are from reservoirs situated at Pitsford assisted by Cransley, Thorpe Malsor, Ravensthorpe and Hollowell. Pitsford is situated about 12 miles West of Irthlingborough in a valley on a tributary of the Brampton branch of the River Nene. The gathering grounds cover about nineteen square miles and are mostly agricultural land with a certain amount of ironstone quarrying. When full this reservoir will hold about 4,000 million gallons. Pitsford is now supplemented by Grafham water reservoir. Treatment consists of the raw water flowing to a pumping station below the dam from where it is pumped to the treatment works. These works consist of a chemical block, reaction tanks, filters, filtered water tank and pumping station. The water is first softened and then passed through open rapid gravity filters and then to the filtered water tank for sterilisation by chlorine. Water thus treated is pumped to three trunk mains for distribution.

Fluoride content of the water—The water supply contains 0.25 parts of naturally occurring Fluorine per million parts of water.

Water Samples—55 samples were taken during the period to the 31st March, 1970, and the results were as follows:

<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Very satisfactory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
55	53	2	—	—

Piped Water Supply—All houses have a piped water supply with the exception of three houses in outlying districts.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—Sewage Works—The total quantity of crude sewage dealt with at these works during the year was 136,649,000 gallons which gives a daily average of 375,428 gallons.

An analysis of final effluent from these works taken on the 14th May 1969, gave the following results:

14th May, 1969

					Milligrams/litre
Total solids dried at 105°C	...	...	...	...	—
Suspended solids dried at 105°C	...	...	...	...	66
Suspended solids ashed at 600°C	...	...	...	...	16
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	...	...	...	387
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	210
Free and Saline Ammonia as Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	4.7
Albuminoid Ammonia as Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	—
Nitrites as Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.21
Nitrates as Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	5.3
Permanganate Value (4 hours)	...	...	...	...	20.4
Biochemical Oxygen Demand in 5 days at 20°C	...	...	...	...	22
Chromium	...	...	...	...	0.96
Lead	...	...	...	...	0.81
Zinc	...	...	...	...	0.08

Remarks

Unsatisfactory as regards suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand.

Total quantities of crude sewage treated at the sewage disposal works each year.

1950	...	...	...	...	63,753,000 gallons
1951	...	...	...	...	95,486,000 gallons
1952	...	...	...	...	85,346,000 gallons
1953	...	...	...	...	77,348,000 gallons
1954	...	...	...	...	84,648,000 gallons
1955	...	...	...	...	75,170,000 gallons
1956	...	...	...	...	84,320,000 gallons
1957	...	...	...	...	98,449,000 gallons
1958	...	...	...	...	109,723,000 gallons
1959	...	...	...	...	99,898,000 gallons
1960	...	...	...	...	115,727,000 gallons
1961	...	...	...	...	96,758,000 gallons
1962	...	...	...	...	109,883,000 gallons
1963	...	...	...	...	125,228,500 gallons
1964	...	...	...	...	132,456,000 gallons
1965	...	...	...	...	123,320,000 gallons
1966	...	...	...	...	141,680,000 gallons
1967	...	...	...	...	140,306,000 gallons
1968	...	...	...	...	126,177,000 gallons
1969	...	...	...	...	136,649,000 gallons

Public Cleansing—Refuse is collected weekly and controlled tipping is carried out at the Council's tip off Windmill Road. 778 loads were collected during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1947—The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:

Sewage works	...	...	...	...	Five treatments
Refuse tip	...	...	...	...	Three treatments

Surveys and inspections:

Private dwellings	...	...	...	...	537
Other premises	...	...	...	...	94
Agricultural premises	...	...	...	..	1

Properties treated:

Private dwellings	...	...	..	...	16
Other premises	...	..		...	7
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	..	1

Northamptonshire Rat Control Committee. At a meeting held in Kettering on 24th April, 1969, chaired by Mr. J. T. Shuttleworth, Chairman of Kettering Rural District Council, and attended by representatives of the National Farmers' Union, Officers and Members of Local Authorities and Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, it was decided to set up a Steering Committee to guide a full-scale rat baiting campaign to commence in the County on 24th November, 1969.

The Medical Officer of Health was appointed to sit on this Committee and the Campaign, which also included Leicester and Rutland, was launched towards the end of the year.

Widespread instruction by means of suitable publicity and demonstrations was given by officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The project was supported with enthusiasm by many farmers.

Results of Rat Baiting on Farms following 24th November, 1969.

Field Staff of the Ministry have made enquiries at 588 farms in the three counties. This was about $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total number of holdings. Of these holdings, 476 had taken control action at or around 24th November, 1969, and of the 112 who had not taken control action, 53 had no rats on the premises. The balance of 59 represented 10% of total farmers who did not take any action. 353 holdings were able to provide details of bait used and this totalled 96cwts. 40 lbs., averaging $30\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per holding.

It is disappointing to note that only 83 farmers had taken control action in hedgerows. Ministry Field Staff have reported several such infestations during their normal farm visits.

Permanent baiting was again somewhat disappointing; 249 farmers reported that they had carried out some form of permanent baiting but this did not include baiting hedgerows in many instances.

At subsequent meetings technical papers on various subjects were presented by members of the Steering Committee and included one

entitled " Rat Borne Infections " presented by the Medical Officer of Health, a summary of which is given here.

" Rat Borne Infections " by F. R. N. Lynch. The speaker began by saying that the rat we were considering was *Rattus Norvegicus*, or the Brown Rat which superseded the small Black Rat, *Rattus Rattus*, in this country during the 18th Century.

The Black Rat had been responsible for the great plagues of the Middle Ages, e.g. the Black Death of the 14th Century and the Plague of 1665.

Rattus Norvegicus was responsible for the spread of many diseases, e.g. Rat-bite Fevers, Trichinosis, Haemorrhagic Jaundice and Salmonellosis in human epidemiology and Equine Influenza and possibly Foot and Mouth Disease in veterinary medicine.

He said he wished to deal with only two of these conditions, Salmonellosis (Food Poisoning) and Weil's Disease or Haemorrhagic Jaundice.

As is the case with Bubonic Plague and the Black Rat, these two diseases were first of all epizootic in the Brown Rat before being communicated to the human population.

The genus *Salmonellae*, named after the American Bacteriologist, Salmon, contained about 400 species. Some bore people's names as *S thompson*, some the names of places as *S dublin*, and some names of diseases with which they were associated, e.g. *S typhimurium* and *S enteritidis*. The last two were very frequently associated with rats.

The source of infection in man was usually of animal origin, e.g. the droppings of infected rodents which could in turn infect food of man or food animals used by man so that cattle and other livestock, including ducks and turkeys could be infected in this way.

The stools of patients and convalescent carriers were also sources of infection. Duck eggs were often implicated, infection entering the shell during its formation in the oviduct.

The speaker went on to say that the role of the rat in the dissemination of *Salmonella* was very clearly established. It was a most important cause of the spread of this condition. Nearly 10,000 cases of human salmonella infection were notified in England and Wales in 1968. The disease would spread rapidly through a community, particularly when hygiene was not perfect, and the Medical Officer must by law prohibit persons engaged in the food trade from carrying on their business if they get the disease. The reason for this was that the stools of patients were also sources of infection. Food poisoning salmonellae multiplies rapidly in food.

As for the disease itself, the onset was acute generally with diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, fever, vomiting and prostration.

Contaminated meat could be derived from an animal infected during its life or it might come from a healthy animal and be contaminated in the course of preparation. Milk might be infected from an infected udder or from infected dung.

At the present time, although a large number of cases of the disease occurred in a year, it was not often the cause of death and in the series quoted, only 20-25 cases proved fatal.

A dozen or so Veterinary Bacteriological Reports concerning the isolation of salmonellae in animals used for human food were read.

A case report describing direct infection of a farmer with salmonellosis communicated from a rat was read.

A case report concerning the occurrence of Weil's Disease, in a young man of 28 years old, in November 1969 was read. About 50 cases were notified in a year and of these, half were fatal. The mode of transmission was the infected urine of a rat entering a skin abrasion or cut in a human.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960—There are no licensed caravan sites in the area.

Factories Act, 1961—There are fifty-one factories on the register and sixteen inspections were carried out. No notices were served. The number of outworkers on the August list was twenty. No complaints were received concerning the carrying out of outwork (S. 133 and S. 134).

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 are to be found at the end of the Report.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Fifty premises are registered with the Council under this Act.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The Council's housing programme for the year was as follows:

Number of Council houses built	...	...	nil
Number under construction at the end of the			
year	...	...	Nil

Private Development:

Number of private houses built during the year	3
Number under construction at the end of the	
year	—

At the end of the year there were 159 applicants for Council houses, which shows an increase of 63 on the figure at the end of 1968. The number of Council houses in the district is 748. The number of Council houses, including East Midland Housing Accommodation, erected since 1945 is 488.

Clearance of Unfit Properties—Four properties were demolished during the year.

Improvement Grants—During the year under review 15 applications for Improvement Grants were received. These grants comprised 12 Standard Grants and 3 Discretionary Grants and all were approved. This is the same as in the previous year. Two of the Standard Grants and one Discretionary Grant were in respect of tenanted property.

Since Improvement Grants were commenced the number of applications received total 258 of which number 257 were approved, but eight were withdrawn or not proceeded with.

Work has been carried out and grants paid in respect of 241 dwellings. The total amount of money paid to 31.12.69 was £29,476.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk—There is no large dairy or pasteurising plant in the district.

Milk Samples—12 milk samples were taken with the following results:

Methylene Blue Test, passed 12
Phosphatase Test, passed 12

The general public should assist the milk trade by ensuring that all milk bottles are returned in a clean condition and these bottles should not be used for any other purpose.

The following licences were issued during the year:

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, dealers' licences	5
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, licences	1
Supplementary dealers' licences	1

Slaughterhouses—There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district but adjacent authorities with slaughterhouses carry out a 100 per cent inspection of all animals killed for human consumption.

Poultry Inspection—There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream—There are 24 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. No samples were taken during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1960—25 food premises were visited under the above Act and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Food premises in the District include two fish and chip shops, one pie and chip shop and one bakery.

SECTION F.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1968

The infectious diseases to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are:

Acute Encephalitis	Measles
Acute Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Anthrax	Plague
Cholera	Relapsing Fever
Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever
Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	Smallpox
Food Poisoning	Tetanus
Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid Fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping Cough
	Yellow Fever

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Six cases of Infectious Disease were notified to me during the year.

Measles—Six cases were notified compared with 156 cases in 1968. All were nursed at home and there were no fatalities.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus—Routine immunisation of infants under one year of age with Triple Antigen has again shown its efficacy in preventing these diseases.

Immunisation is carried out either by the Family Doctor or at the County Health Department's clinics. No cases occurred.

Poliomyelitis—This is the fourth disease which is prevented by routine immunisation in infancy. This is again done either by the Family Doctor or at the Health Department's Clinics. No cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever —No cases were notified during the year. There were two cases in 1968.

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases —There have been no cases of Gastro Intestinal diseases due to Dysenteric organisms or Salmonellosis.

Infectious Hepatitis —No cases were reported.

Leprosy —The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1966 came into force on 1st March, 1966.

Under these Regulations, cases of Leprosy are now notifiable to the District Medical Officer of Health and not as heretofore to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health. No notifications of Leprosy were received.

Smallpox —There were no cases.

A large number of International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated in this office during the year.

Tuberculosis —One case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified in 1969 and one patient transferred into the District. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Two names were removed from the Register as healed. One case was admitted to, and two were discharged from Rushden Hospital during the year. The following table shows the number of known cases of Tuberculosis in the District as at 31st December, 1969:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory ...	16	9	25
Non-respiratory ...	2	2	4
Totals	18	11	29

Influenza —A large number of cases of Influenza occurred in the town during December. This high incidence of Influenza was part of a nation-wide epidemic and a significant increase in the number of cases for the time of the year was observed in the week before Christmas. The peak was reached in the first week of the New Year and the incidence gradually subsided.

The usual symptoms of the illness were: fever, cough, headache, lethargy and aching of the back and legs, and its duration was commonly three days.

The causative organism of the Influenza epidemic has been isolated and is described as Virus A2/HK/68.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1969

<i>Disease</i>		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Measles	...	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
TOTALS	...	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1969

<i>Disease</i>	—0	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	65+	All Ages Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
TOTALS	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1969

<i>Age Periods</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-respiratory.</i>	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— 34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Inward Transfer

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961,
for the year, 1969

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	12	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	51	14	—	—

2.—Cases in which **defects** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 133</i>			<i>Section 134</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ...	10	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed Toys ...	10	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	20	—	—	—	—	—

